

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00781 080901Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 080830Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2265

S E C R E T MANAMA 0781

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE STATUS

REF : (A) MANAMA 0738

(B) MANAMA 0737

(C) STATE 155236

(D) MANAMA 0765

1. I HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 9 AT 1100 HOURS LOCAL.

2. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH HIM PRIOR TO HIS

DEPARTURE JULY 11 FOR ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING, WHERE WE BELIEVE HE WILL DISCUSS NAVY PRESENCE QUESTION WITH HIS GULF COLLEAGUES (REF D). WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO HAVE SOME SORT OF OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS, HOWEVER TENTATIVE, WHEN I SEE HIM. PLEASE SEND REPLY NIACT IMMEDIATE.

3. IN MEETING REPORTED REF D, I HAD IMPRESSION FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IF WE DATED THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE NEGOTIATIONS AND OUR LETTER OF REASSURANCES MARCH 31, WHICH IS THE LAST DAY THE FINAL VERSION OF THE LAST AGREED DRAFT WAS SUBMITTED TO AND ULTIMATELY ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY GOB. FOREIGN MINISTER WILL, HOWEVER, WANT TO DISCUSS THIS WITH LEGAL MINISTER BAHARNA. IF GOB AGREES TO USE THIS DATE FOR EXCHANGE, I SUGGEST WE TAKE THEM UP ON IT SINCE THIS WOULD THEN PERMIT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANAMA 00781 080901Z

THEIR LETTER IN RESPONSE, WHICH WILL INDICATE INTENT TO LIMIT

THE DURATION OF NAVY PRESENCE, TO APPEAR AS THE LAST DOCUMENT IN THE RECORD, PRESUMABLY DATED IN JULY. THUS RECORD WOULD BEAR OUT THE ACTUAL FACT THAT ALL OF THE CONDITIONS OF CONTINUED NAVY PRESENCE WERE NEGOTIATED AND AGREED PRIOR TO GOB'S DECISION TO SEEK A TIME LIMIT ON NAVY'S USE OF BAHRAIN'S FACILITIES. FOLLOWING THIS DATE SEQUENCE WOULD ALSO TEND TO AVOID OUR HAVING TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOB'S LETTER INDICATING INTENTION TO LIMIT NAVY STAY.

4. IN NEXT MEETING, BELIEVE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN WORKING OUT A CAREFUL UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHAT TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL SAY PUBLICLY ABOUT THE LIMITATION ON THE LENGTH OF CONTINUED U.S. NAVY PRESENCE.
TWINAM

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NNN

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